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State halts admissions at Moore assisted living center

BY LYNN BONNER
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The state won't allow an assisted living facility for the elderly in Moore County to accept more residents until it fixes a long list of problems that include mishandling of patient drugs and sanitation lapses. A former worker's video of a staff member bent at the waist while sitting at a desk alerted authorities to problems at Tara Plantation of Carthage, about

60 miles southwest of Raleigh. Last week, the state ordered all staff members who have access to medication to take a drug test. The deadline for sending the state the results is Monday.

An investigation of the assisted living facility discovered drugs had gone missing, residents were not taking medicine as required, one had overdosed twice in January, and staff members weren't washing their hands as they went from patient care to computer entry.

In a Tuesday letter to Tara

Plantation owner and administrator Kathy Huffman, Mark Benton, a state Department of Health and Human Services deputy secretary, said staff from the state Division of Health Services Regulation would make unannounced visits in the coming days and weeks.

"If it appears that demonstrative and lasting improvements have not been made, or if new issues are identified, staff could take more stringent action, up to and including revocation of your license," he wrote.

In a brief interview Wednesday, Huffman said the facility is safe and that she would contest the decision to stop new admissions. She declined to answer more questions.

The facility is able to admit as many as 80 people.

Investigators interviewed staff, managers, residents, family members and doctors, and reviewed patient records. Some residents have dementia and could not answer questions.

According to a report dated Feb. 28 that detailed the find-

ings of the health services regulation division, 15 doses of the opioid oxycodone went missing at the facility in October 2017.

One resident was prescribed the anti-anxiety drug Clonazepam, but the drug was not found in the patient's blood when tested. Failure to make sure the resident received the drug as ordered "placed the resident at substantial risk for neglect and exploitation," according to the report.

A medication aide who was one of the workers responsible for giving the resident Clonazepam was also working when oxycodone went missing. She refused a drug screening but was allowed to continue to work for another week before she quit, according to the report. Failure to investigate and report

SEE CENTER, 2A

UNC

Plan aims to give 'voice' to Silent Sam

BY JANE STANCILL
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CHAPEL HILL

Silent Sam may finally speak, with a full history lesson for passers-by at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Embedded history markers and Bluetooth beacons connected to digital content could lead UNC-Chapel Hill visitors through McCorkle Place, the quadrangle off Franklin Street, an area that could become known as the "birthplace of American public higher education."

A plan to provide historical context to the site will include signs about the origins of the controversial Confederate monument known as Silent Sam, which has been the target of protesters and a source of angst for students, faculty and university leaders.

Work is proceeding to curate the university's history after months of research by an internal task force that included historian and professor Jim Leloudis. On Wednesday, Leloudis presented designs to the board of trustees.

The proposal calls for gateway signs at either end of the quadrangle, plus interpretive signs at two current locations - Silent Sam and the Unsung Founders Memorial, which honors slaves' contributions to the university. A third marker, a new feature, will tell the history of Native Americans on the land.

As part of the work, the Unsung Founders Memorial will be refurbished because of damage from rain and erosion that has caused it to sink into the ground. The black granite table-like sculpture is supported by figurines that represent slave and free labor that built the university's original buildings. It will be reinstalled on a hard surface surrounded by circular

SEE UNC, 5A

NC museum unveils rare nest of dinosaur eggs found in desert



PHOTOS BY CHUCK LIDDY cliddy@newsobserver.com

Children gather around a rock that has a nest of dinosaur eggs encased in it Thursday at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. The nest, found in 2016 by a team from the museum, is the only clutch of oviraptorosaurus eggs ever found in North America.

BY JOSH SHAFFER
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RALEIGH

They look like oversized yams, potatoes on a campfire or even small footballs.

But the pair of oval-shaped fossils unveiled Thursday at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences date back 97 million years, eggs from a feathered dinosaur that stood tall as a rooftop.

"Picture a 15-foot-tall chicken," said Lindsay Zanno, the museum's head paleontologist.

Before a crowd of school-age fans, Zanno showed off her team's 2016 discovery: the only clutch of oviraptorosaurus eggs ever found in North America. Recovered from a rugged patch of Utah desert,



Two fossilized dinosaur eggs can be seen on a rock excavated from a desert in Utah and brought to North Carolina. As many as 10 additional eggs, all part of a nest, likely remain inside the rock.

the eggs offer a rare chance at understanding the reproductive life of reptiles dating to

the Cretaceous period.

More than an egg, a dinosaur nest helps explain prehis-

toric behavior: whether eggs were buried, for example, or exposed to open air, Zanno said.

"There could be dinosaur bones in there," she said, "or something we're not expecting."

Oviraptorosaurs sported feathers, beaks and parrot-shaped heads and walked on two legs, so birdlike in their appearance that some scientists call them true birds. They typically weighed a few dozen kilograms - roughly 50 pounds - and grew a few meters long, though larger species could weigh more than a ton. The creature that laid the clutch of eggs now at Raleigh's museum represents a new species, one of several discovered in Utah that are yet unnamed.

SEE EGGS, 5A

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